

TERM	DEFINITION
adaptive reuse	Use of a building for a purpose not originally intended while retaining historic features.
affordable housing	Housing whose total cost (including insurance and similar expenses) accounts for no more than 30 percent of household income.
base flood elevation (BFE)	The elevation to which floodwater is anticipated to rise during a flood. A regulatory requirement for the elevation or flood proofing of buildings. ABFE - Advisory Base Flood Elevation.
best practice	A technique or method that is generally agreed upon by a community of experts to be the most effective means of delivering a particular outcome.
block group	Census block group
blueway	A waterway route, typically with landscaped banks and used as a recreational or aesthetic amenity.
Big Four	Nickname for the four largest developments under the management of the Housing Authority of New Orleans and all in redevelopment as of 2009: B.W. Cooper, C.J. Peete, Lafitte and St. Bernard.
bicycle boulevard	Bicycle routes on shared roadways with light motorized vehicle traffic that are designed to optimize bicycle travel with safety and traffic calming elements.
blight	Dilapidated property due to insufficient maintenance or other destructive forces. A blighted property often presents a health and/or safety hazard and is generally considered a public nuisance.
brownfield	A building or property that contains real or perceived contamination which inhibits its redevelopment or use.
bus rapid transit (BRT)	A system of public transportation that uses buses to provide higher-speed service than ordinary bus lines, often with reserved traffic lanes, or specialized traffic signals, and stations.
capital budget	A plan for how a specific pool of money will be allocated for future investments or expenditures.
capital improvement program (CIP)	A 5-year or longer plan for investment in assets with a long service life, such as buildings and machinery, typically including a list of projects, priorities, estimated costs, identification of resources, and a time schedule for completion.
case management	The coordination of a range of services, such as health, legal, social, etc., for a single person to facilitate treatment or care over time.
Central Business District (CBD)	In New Orleans, the city's downtown office and entertainment district, an area bound by the Pontchartrain Expressway, Claiborne Avenue, Canal Street, and the Mississippi River.
Census block	A geographic unit used by the U.S. Census to tabulate Census data. Many Census blocks in urban areas correspond to individual city blocks.
Census block group	A geographic unit consisting of a group of Census blocks that is used by the U.S. Census to tabulate Census data.
Census tract	A geographic unit used by the U.S. Census to tabulate Census data, which consists of multiple Census block groups.
charter school	A public school that receives public funding but is governed by a private group or organization under a contract (or "charter") with the state. As part of the contract, the school typically receives some freedom from normal school regulations in exchange for meeting certain accountability and performance standards.
Class A office space	A category of commercial office space that includes the highest quality office space that is locally available.
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)	Federal funds allocated by formula (based on measures such as population and median income) every year through the Department of Housing and Development to state and local governments for the purpose of developing viable communities.

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Community Land Trust (CLT)	Property trust in which a nonprofit organization acquires permanent ownership of the land for specific community purposes. Typically used to provide affordable housing as individual households own homes on the land, but do not have to pay the cost of the land.
complete streets	Roadways designed and operated to enable safe, attractive, and comfortable access and travel for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and public transport users of all ages and abilities.
comprehensive zoning ordinance (CZO)	A municipal law that specifies for every lot or parcel of land the permitted use, dimensions, density, intensity and, often, development standards, in order to promote orderly growth and protect the health, safety or general welfare.
Cultural Products District	State designated districts with special historic rehabilitation tax credits and sales tax exemptions for original artwork.
D-CDBG	Special allocations of CDBG funds for disaster recovery.
demographics	Statistical characteristics of a specified population typically including age, sex, race, income, household composition, educational status, and employment status.
density of land use	Typically, the number of dwelling units per acre.
Department of Housing and Urban Development <b>(HUD)</b>	A federal agency that supports housing and community development through programs and funding to cities and states.
disinvestment	Withdrawal of investment and lack of maintenance of properties by private owners which over time can result in blight.
ex officio	A result of a person's official position or capacity.
exurban	Residential areas farther away from the central city than suburbs.
Federally-Qualified Health Center	Community-based organizations that provide care to all people regardless of their ability to pay.
future land use map	A map in a community master plan or comprehensive plan that shows the distribution of land use categories (residential, commercial, industrial, mixed) desired in the future.
Geographic Information System (GIS)	A system that allows for the storage, maintenance, analysis and display of geographic information. In essence, an electronic or computer mapping system.
gray water	Waste water generated from domestic processes such as dish washing, laundry, and bathing.
green energy	Energy derived from one of a number of sources that are considered to be environmentally-friendly and cause less pollution. See also: renewable energy.
green infrastructure	An integrated network and system of parks, open spaces, tree canopy, recreational areas, and natural land.
greenfield	A previously-undeveloped area of land.
Gulf Opportunity Zone (GO Zone)	Areas within the Gulf States affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita eligible for a range of federal economic incentives, that will expire in 2011 unless extended by Congress.
harden	To make resistant to storms and natural hazards.
hazard mitigation	Any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to human life and property from hazards.
heritage tourism	Tourism that is focused on historic sites, locations, and traditions.
HOME	HUD program that allocates funds by formula and through discretionary grants to states and localities for use in developing or maintaining affordable housing.
homeless	The condition of being without fixed, regular, and adequate housing due to financial or other hardship.
human services	Social, educational, rehabilitative, and other services that help recipients achieve their fullest capacity for a high quality of life.
hydrokinetic energy	Energy derived from moving water.
incentive	Something that promotes action. In development, incentives can include financial grants as well as special permissions, such as faster approval for a permit or permission to construct a bigger building.

TERM	DEFINITION
incentive zoning	Zoning regulations that allow more density or other advantages than base zoning permits, in exchange for the provision of a specified community benefit, amenity, or other public good.
infill development	Introduction of new housing or buildings within or adjacent to existing neighborhoods.
institution	Organizations devoted to a particular cause or program that is public, educational or charitable. In land use typically used as a category referring to schools, colleges, universities, hospitals, churches and similar organizations.
intensity of land use	Typically, a measure of non-residential or mixed-use density expresses as Floor Area Ratio. FAR is the total building floor area (on all floors) divided by the area of the lot.
land use	Purpose for which land is developed or zoned expressed as a category of use, such as residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, park and open space, mixed-use, and so on.
Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC)	A federal tax credit allowed for private investment in qualified low-income housing. LIHTC allocations are made through state governments, which assign the tax credits to qualified projects. The developer typically sells the tax credits in order to raise capital to build the affordable housing development.
Main Street Program	The Main Street program, administered by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, provides training and technical assistance to help revitalize historic commercial centers.
metropolitan area/metropolitan statistical area (MSA)	A geographic area used for federal data tabulation encompassing a core area with a large population nuclueus (e.g. a city), plus adjacent areas that are considered economically and socially integrated with that core area.
mixed use	Combination of two or more land uses, such as residential and commercial, in one building, in one project, or within a defined district.
Neighborhood audit	A comprehensive assessment of conditions of public or private spaces (e.g. streets and other public infrastructure within rights-of-way) within a particular section of the city.
New Orleans Redevelopment Authority <b>(NORA)</b>	An independent agency created by state legislation to eliminate and prevent the spread of slums and blight with powers to acquire real estate through negotiation, gift or expropriation, dispose of property through sale or lease, borrow money, issue bonds, and provide security to slum clearance and redevelopment.
non-structural hazard mitigation	Mitigation that does not involve physical changes, such as creation of hazard mitigation plans, changes to zoning or building codes, developing community warning systems, participating in insurance programs, and so on.
open space	Land area that is reserved as undeveloped for recreation or conservation purposes.
Office of Recovery Development Administration (ORDA)	City agency formed to organize and initiate post-hurricane rebuilding. Dissolved in 2009 to be replaced by an Office of Community Development.
one-hundred year storm (1 in 100 year storm)	Annual 1 percent probability of a 100-year storm; 39 percent probability of storm over 50 years; multiple 100-year storms can strike in consecutive years or even in the same season.
opportunity sites	Underutilized or vacant sites that can be redeveloped into vibrant mixed-use places.
paratransit	Transit that is not fixed to a particular schedule or route. Typically used to service people with special needs such as people with disabilities that prevent them from utilizing regular public transit.
pedestrian	A person traveling on foot.
permanent supportive housing (supportive housing)	Housing for formerly-homeless people that is not time-limited and is associated with supportive services.
placemaking	Planning and design that seeks to preserve, enhance or create physical spaces and environments that have meaning and provide livable experiences to the people who live, work, shop, play and otherwise use the spaces.
polder	An area of land surrounded by an embankment that prevents the flow of water to surrounding areas.
poverty	The U.S. government defines poverty according to income thresholds that vary by family size and composition.

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public housing	Housing units owned, rented, maintained and administered by a Housing Authority to income-qualified households.
public realm	Areas that are publicly-accessible, including streets and sidewalks, parks and open space, public plazas, etc both publicly- and privately-owned.
rapid reconnaissance plan	A concise plan that summarizes conditions within a particular area or along a particular corridor and identifies and prioritizes immediate needs in terms of projects and strategies for revitalization.
renewable energy	Energy that is derived from a renewable source - such as sunlight, wind, rain, the flow of tides and rivers, and geothermal heat - as opposed to non-renewable (finite) energy sources, such as oil, coal, and natural gas.
resilience	Capacity to anticipate significant multi-hazard threats, to reduce overall the community's vulnerability to hazard events, to respond to and recover from specific hazard events when they occur, and to adapt to changing risks and hazards.
revitalization area	An area of the city designated as needing public investment in infrastructure or housing in order to drive further private investment.
risk	A state of uncertainty where some of the possibilities involve a loss, catastrophe, or other undesirable outcome and the level of risk is related to both the probability of an event and the level of likely undesirable consequences from the event.
screw pump	A device used to pump water that uses a screw-shaped mechanism inside a hollow pipe.
single-family housing	Housing that contains one housing unit per structure.
slab-on-grade	A wood- or (less often) steel-framed structure constructed on top of a level concrete slab that is at or around the same elevation as the adjacent land (i.e. not raised above ground level).
Smart Growth	Compact development patterns characterized by walkability and transportation choice, a range of housing choices, preservation of open space, and associated features that reduce sprawl and encourage a unique sense of community and place.
stormwater management	Mechanism for controlling stormwater runoff for the purposes of reducing flooding, water quality degradation, and downstream erosion and mitigating the adverse effects of changes in land use on the aquatic environment.
structural hazard mitigation	Physical changes to a location or facility, such as construction of levees.
subdivision	Division of a large plot of land owned by a single owner into smaller plots for sale to multiple owners.
subsidized housing	Housing that is made affordable through a subsidy. The subsidy can be attached to the housing unit itself, affecting rental or sales price, or the subsidy can be given to the household, in order to add resources for rent or for purchase costs.
subsidy	A grant or gift in the form of money or other contributions, offered publicly by a government entity to encourage a particular type of development or other activity. In housing: financial assistance to owners or developers of housing in exchange for providing housing at a cost that is lower than market rate, or provided to residents to lower the cost of housing.
underutilized	Not used to the fullest potential. Typically, land or buildings that have significant vacancy or little development relative to what is permitted.
workforce	All members of a given population who are employed typically measured starting at age 16.
workforce development	Education or training for members of the workforce to facilitate increased skill, knowledge, and expertise (and, typically, increased earning power).
zoning	Regulations that establish the allowable uses in defined geographic areas (zones) and sets standards for the characteristics of development in those areas. Zoning regulations also define the process for gaining approval to develop a specific area of land to or change its use.